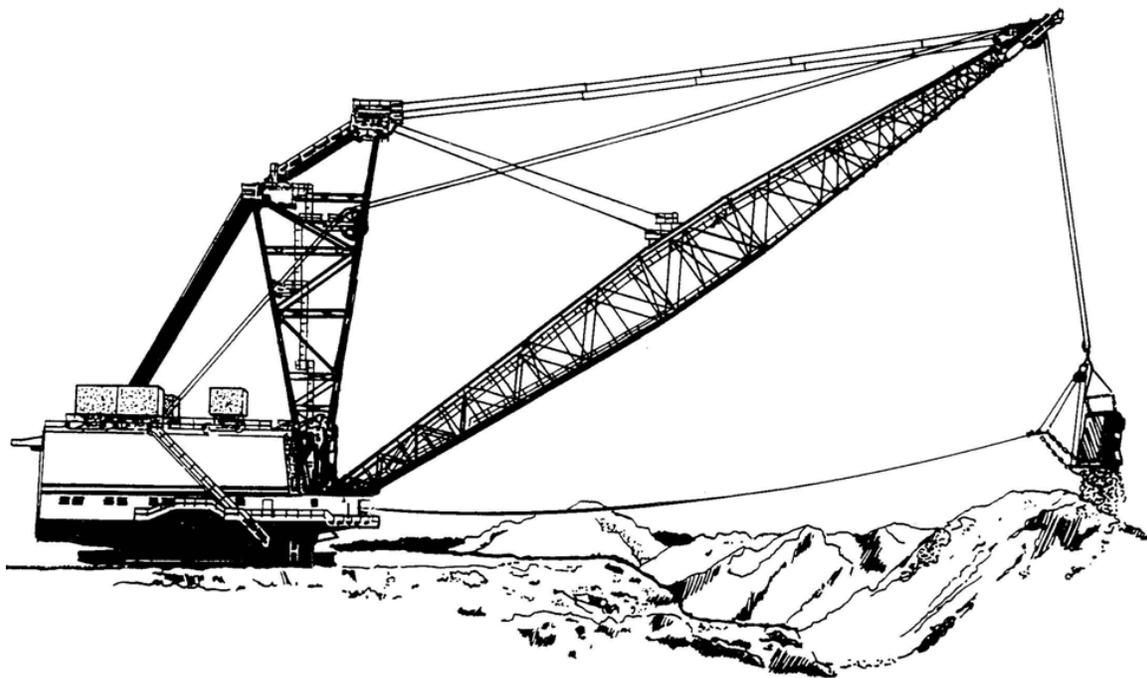


**WEST VIRGINIA OFFICE OF MINERS'  
HEALTH, SAFETY AND TRAINING**

**Surface Mine Foreman Reciprocity Study  
Guide**



## SURFACE MINE FOREMAN RECIPROCITY STUDY GUIDE

1. How long must an apprentice miner work before testing for a certificate of competency and qualification as an experienced coal miner?
  - a. 1 week
  - b. 10 days
  - c. 1 month
  - d. 6 months with a minimum of 108 shifts
  
2. What is required prior to opening or reopening any coal mine in West Virginia?
  - a. A permit of approval from the director
  - b. A certificate of competency and solvency
  - c. A prospecting certificate
  - d. Approval from the mine workers' union
  
3. Within what length of time must the occurrence of a life-threatening injury be reported in writing to the Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training?
  - a. Within 10 working days
  - b. Within 24 hours
  - c. Within 24 days
  - d. Within 10 months
  
4. What board is charged with the responsibility of formulating appropriate rules and practices to improve health and safety and provide increased protection of miners?
  - a. The board of formulation
  - b. The board of rules and practices
  - c. The board of coal mine health and safety
  - d. The board of appeals
  
5. What is required to protect all 120VAC 15 – 20 AMP circuits used to power portable hand tools used in wet locations at preparation plants, at the surface areas of underground mines, and at shop areas?
  - a. Check out switches
  - b. Yield current reducers
  - c. Ground fault circuit interrupting devices (GFCI)
  - d. Spring loaded switches

6. What length of time is an individual miner given to notify the operator in writing that he has obtained any additional mining certifications (shot firer, belt examiner, mine foreman, ...)?
- 1 month
  - 2 months
  - 3 months
  - 4 days
7. What board is responsible for promulgating rules in response to coal mining related fatalities?
- The board of fatalities
  - The board of investigations
  - The board of examiners
  - The board of coal mine health and safety
8. How often must each coal operator or independent contractor submit to the director a report containing the findings of the required evaluation of the effectiveness of the comprehensive mine safety program in effect at his or her operation?
- Monthly
  - Annually
  - Weekly
  - Every 5 years
9. What distance from mine openings, occupied buildings, and public roads must surface blasting magazines be located (unless barricaded)?
- 200 feet
  - 300 feet
  - 400 feet
  - 1,000 feet
10. What must mechanically operated grinding wheels be equipped with?
- Safety washers
  - Substantial retaining hoods
  - Goggles (unless eye shields are used)
  - All of the above
11. How must the operating switch be constructed on electric drills or other electrically operated rotating tools intended to be held in the hand?
- Continuously
  - Out of metal
  - So as to break the circuit when the hand releases the switch
  - So that polarity can be reversed according to hand pressure

12. When must an employee wear a seat belt when operating a vehicle on the surface area of an underground mine?
- When there is danger of overturning
  - When the vehicle is equipped with rollover protection
  - When the vehicle is rated at 5 ton or greater
  - All of the above
13. What is high voltage?
- More than 1,000 volts
  - More than 550 volts
  - More than 660 volts
  - More than 1,500 volts
14. What board is responsible for examining and certifying coal miners as potential coal mine inspectors in West Virginia?
- The board of public employees
  - The board of mining engineers
  - The mine inspectors' examining board
  - The board of industrial hygienists
15. What board is charged with the responsibilities of hearing appeals and making determinations on questions of miners' entitlements due to withdrawal orders and appeals from discharge or discrimination, and suspensions of certifications?
- The board of mines, minerals and energy
  - The coal mine safety and technical review committee
  - The board of appeals
  - The board of losers
16. Within what length of time must the occurrence of an injury that is not life-threatening be reported in writing to the Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training?
- Within 10 working days
  - Within 8 hours
  - Within 1 month
  - Whenever the operator gets around to it
17. What civil penalty may any miner in West Virginia be subject to when knowingly violating any health or safety provision of the state code or code of state rules?
- An IPA (Individual Personal Assessment) of \$25.00 to \$250.00 for each occurrence
  - None
  - A failure to abate order
  - An imminent danger order

18. How often must fire drills and demonstrations of the various types of available fire-fighting equipment be held for employees?
  - a. Weekly
  - b. Monthly
  - c. Annually
  - d. At least every 6 months
  
19. When requested by an authorized representative of the director, how long does the mine operator, or agent thereof, have to furnish the required list of all mining certifications of all current employees on the payroll?
  - a. 5 days
  - b. 60 days
  - c. 3 months
  - d. 6 months
  
20. What site specific program is required by law to be developed and submitted by each coal operator or independent contractor to address health and safety concerns regarding the extraction, production, processing, and/or preparation activities conducted by the coal operator or independent contractor?
  - a. A roof control plan
  - b. A ventilation plan
  - c. A comprehensive mine safety program
  - d. No such requirement exists
  
21. What must be done before any person is permitted to perform any work within the confines of the cargo space of a crusher, feeder, or rotary breaker?
  - a. Nothing in particular
  - b. It must be deenergized, locked out, and suitably tagged
  - c. All combustible material must be removed
  - d. Remote communications must be established
  
22. What is low voltage?
  - a. Up to and including 660 volts
  - b. 240 volts and below
  - c. 120 volts and below
  - d. None of the above
  
23. If a person's first class mine foreman certification has been revoked in Virginia, what mining certification would that person be eligible for in West Virginia?
  - a. None
  - b. Any certification except mine foreman
  - c. Only certifications that do not require statutory examinations
  - d. West Virginia law does not address this issue

24. What board establishes criteria and standards relative to programs of education, training, and examination of prospective coal miners in West Virginia?
- The board of miner training, education and certification
  - The board of public health
  - The board of public employees
  - The board of mining engineers
25. What refresher first-aid training is required of each coal mine employee in West Virginia?
- Not less than 5 hours within each 24 months of employment
  - 40 hours per year
  - 8 hours per month
  - West Virginia coal miners are not required to have first-aid training
26. What is medium voltage?
- Any voltage less than 1,000 volts
  - Any voltage more than 660 volts
  - From 661 to 1,000 volts
  - None of the above
27. What criteria must each applicant for surface mine foreman certification satisfy at the time he is issued such certification?
- At least three (3) years' experience in surface mining, which shall include at least eighteen (18) months experience on or at a working section of a surface mine
  - None
  - The same criteria that an applicant for underground mine foreman certification must satisfy
  - At least ten (10) years of experience in surface coal mining
28. At what volume percent of methane must changes or adjustments to the ventilation of surface structures be made?
- One-tenth (0.1) of a percent
  - Two-tenths (0.2) of a percent
  - One (1.0) percent or more
  - Five-tenths (0.5) of a percent
29. What must required monthly circuit breaker tests by a qualified person include?
- Breaking continuity of the ground check conductor where ground check monitoring is used
  - Actuating all of the auxiliary protective relays
  - Visual observation of all components of the circuit breaker and its auxiliary devices
  - All of the above

30. Who establishes the minimum requirements for mandatory preblast surveys in West Virginia?
- a. The office of explosives and blasting
  - b. Bureau of mines
  - c. The preblast office
  - d. The Governor's office
31. What must be done when the highwall is cracked and shows evidence of movement or of weakening?
- a. The area shall be made safe
  - b. The area shall be abandoned and dangered off
  - c. Either of the above
  - d. None of the above
32. What must be done with the drill machine controls in the event of a power failure?
- a. Nothing
  - b. They shall be left engaged
  - c. They shall be placed in the neutral position
  - d. They must be replaced
33. A welding cable must be splice-free within what distance of the electrode holder?
- a. 5 feet
  - b. 10 feet
  - c. 50 feet
  - d. 100 feet
34. What requirements apply to guards installed on equipment in such a manner as to prevent accidental contact with moving parts?
- a. They must be of substantial construction and not have openings large enough to admit a person's hand
  - b. They must be firmly bolted or otherwise installed in a stationary position
  - c. They must be of a sufficient dimension to exclude the possibility of bodily contact while the equipment is in motion
  - d. All of the above
35. What must be legibly marked on all lifting jacks and not exceeded?
- a. The manufacturer's rated capacity
  - b. The expiration date
  - c. The inspiration date
  - d. All of the above

36. Where is it permitted to cross over conveyor belts in motion?
- Anywhere
  - At the tailpiece
  - Only at designated crossover points
  - At the belt head
37. How many apprentice miners may the mine foreman or assistant mine foreman have under their direct supervision at one time?
- 11
  - 12
  - 3
  - 14
38. What is the maximum length of time a person may be employed as an apprentice miner before testing for a certificate of competency and qualification as an experienced surface miner?
- 6 months
  - 8 months
  - 2 years
  - 3 years
39. How long after completing the 40 hour surface apprenticeship training program does a prospective miner have to pass the final examination?
- 13 days
  - 45 days
  - 56 days
  - 87 days
40. Within what period of time does a prospective miner have to retake the apprentice miner's examination if not scoring at least 75 percent the first time?
- Within 45 days after completing the 40 hour program
  - 1 hour
  - 1 day
  - 1 week
41. What happens if a prospective miner does not pass the apprentice miner's examination upon taking it a second time within the pre-established time frame?
- He keeps on taking the test until he passes it
  - He must wait one year before retaking the test
  - He must repeat the 40 hour training program
  - He must wait two years before retaking the test

42. When must the firing of holes be conducted?
- During day light hours
  - During night time hours
  - Before dawn
  - After dusk
43. What qualifications are required of a person to obtain the surface coal mine truck driver certification?
- A valid driver's license and first-aid card
  - Completion of the required 8 hour training course
  - A score of at least 80 percent on the required examination
  - All of the above
44. What experience gained under a surface coal truck driver certification is applicable toward obtaining an experienced miner certification?
- 1 month
  - 6 months
  - None
  - 3 months
45. How much continuous clearance from the farthest projection of moving railroad equipment shall be provided on at least one side of the tracks?
- A minimum of 30 inches
  - 4 feet
  - 5 feet
  - 6 feet
46. Where must the employer designate at least one (1) certified surface construction supervisor for each surface construction project at each specific mine?
- There is no such requirement
  - Where the employer employs ten (10) or more employees
  - When deemed necessary
  - When required by the bureau of commerce
47. When must any tire with a defect which could be a hazard to the safe operation of a vehicle or to other persons be replaced?
- At the end of the shift
  - Immediately
  - When it blows out
  - During the next regularly scheduled idle shift

48. For what length of time must the written preshift reports remain with each unit of equipment operated by independent contractors in the removal of coal and overburden?
- 1 day
  - 1 week
  - 30 days
  - 9 months
49. How shall all doors on mobile equipment be maintained?
- Opened
  - Closed
  - Cracked
  - In good operating condition
50. How many trucks are allowed in the auger pit at one time?
- 10
  - 2
  - 8
  - As many as desired
51. What must an equipment operator do if the unit of equipment he is operating comes in contact with an energized power line?
- Jump out of the equipment
  - Tear down the power line
  - Stay in the equipment until notified by a certified electrician or foreman that the line is deenergized
  - Disembark from the equipment and call the nearest electric utility
52. What minimum distance away from power lines and fuel storage areas must surface magazines for explosives be located?
- At least 25 feet
  - At least 50 feet
  - At least 100 feet
  - At least 80 feet
53. What office is responsible for the education, training, examination and certification of blasters in West Virginia?
- Bureau of commerce
  - Bureau of public health
  - Economic development office
  - Office of explosives and blasting

54. What minimum distance above the ground must high voltage power lines located above surface work areas, driveways, haulageways, and railroad tracks be installed?
- Five (5) feet
  - Nine (9) feet
  - Eleven (11) feet
  - Fifteen (15) feet
55. What minimum criteria applies to the approval of the required plan to protect the health and safety of persons who may have to travel on foot or operate equipment on a coal stockpile or coal storage area directly over areas where underlying coal feeders are in place?
- No person shall travel on foot, except on an emergency basis, and only then under direct supervision; they shall be secured by an overhead lifeline; and feeders shall be locked and tagged out; and warning signs shall be posted at the entrances to all coal stockpiles with underlying coal feeders
  - The equipment shall be equipped with an enclosed cab, the equipment shall have two-way communications, and the equipment operator shall be provided with a self-contained self-rescuer
  - Both of the above
  - There is no required plan
56. How often must the mine foreman or assistant mine foreman conduct onshift examinations for hazardous conditions at all working places in the pit under his supervision and along the haulage roads?
- Once a shift
  - Twice a shift
  - Three times a shift
  - At least once every four (4) hours during each working shift, or more often if necessary for safety
57. When is a certified mine foreman required to be employed at a surface coal mine?
- Always
  - Never
  - Sometimes
  - When five (5) or more persons are employed in a period of twenty-four (24) hours
58. Where may required first-aid supplies be located with respect to the working pit when a ten (10) unit first aid kit is not provided in the working pit?
- Within 1,000 feet of the working pit
  - Within 2,000 feet of the working pit
  - Within 3,000 feet of the working pit
  - Within 4,000 feet of the working pit

59. Open fires and flames are prohibited within how many feet of an area where explosives are being stored, handled, or used?
- a. 50 feet
  - b. 75 feet
  - c. 100 feet
  - d. 125 feet
60. What must the examiner wear when entering an auger hole to determine the quality of the air within?
- a. Metatarsal boots
  - b. A lifeline that extends to the hands of a person on the surface
  - c. A breathing apparatus
  - d. All of the above
61. What should be done with spoil material to prevent it from sloughing, sliding, or rolling into the pit?
- a. It should be sloped to the angle of repose
  - b. It should be dumped in a valley fill
  - c. It should be buried in a hole
  - d. None of the above
62. Where must berms or guards be provided on haulage roads?
- a. They are not required
  - b. Next to the pit
  - c. On the outer bank of elevating roadways
  - d. Across underground mine shafts
63. How often must welding machines, electrodes, and cables be examined for wear and/or damage?
- a. Weekly
  - b. They don't have to be
  - c. Every 6 months
  - d. Annually
64. When may hoses or extension cords be used for the purpose of hoisting or lowering hand tools?
- a. When the tools are light
  - b. When the tools are small
  - c. Both of the above
  - d. Never

65. What minimum number of persons must be continuously employed in the operation of a tipple or cleaning plant?
- a. 2
  - b. 4
  - c. 6
  - d. 8
66. How many apprentice miners may an experienced miner have under his direct supervision at one time?
- a. 1
  - b. 21
  - c. 13
  - d. 4
67. If an apprentice begins apprenticeship training prior to the expiration date on the apprentice miner card, how long will the card remain valid?
- a. 1 month after the expiration date
  - b. 2 months after the expiration date
  - c. 3 months after the expiration date
  - d. Until such training is completed and a miner's certificate is obtained
68. Who shall be the person who makes the detonating cord connections or connects the leg wires of the detonating caps to the shot cable?
- a. The equipment manufacturer
  - b. The certified blaster performing the blasting
  - c. The shot foreman or assistant shot foreman
  - d. The mine foreman or assistant mine foreman
69. How long must the certified blaster wait before returning to a misfired shot when using blasting caps and fuse?
- a. 10 minutes
  - b. 20 minutes
  - c. 30 minutes
  - d. 43 minutes
70. What is the purpose of the surface coal mine truck driver certification?
- a. To exempt individuals who possess an independent coal truck driver's certification from having to complete the 40 hour surface and/or 80 hour underground apprenticeship program(s) in order to drive a coal truck on mine property
  - b. Job security
  - c. Increase government bureaucracy
  - d. There is no such certification

71. How many years of experience must a qualified applicant possess when making application for the surface construction supervisor certification?
- a. 10
  - b. 8
  - c. 6
  - d. 3
72. What must all lifting jacks be equipped with to prevent over-travel?
- a. A cotter key
  - b. A zerk
  - c. A positive stop
  - d. Any of the above
73. How far above the largest unit of equipment used at a dumping facility (including a dump truck in a raised position) must all power lines be maintained?
- a. 12 inches
  - b. At least 6 feet
  - c. 60 feet
  - d. 100 feet
74. How must all exhaust tail pieces be positioned and maintained?
- a. On the operator's side
  - b. Opposite the side of the operator
  - c. To prevent carbon monoxide and other toxic fumes from entering the operator's compartment
  - d. Underneath the equipment
75. To within how many feet of active auger holes must completed auger holes be blocked with highwall spoil?
- a. 1,000 feet
  - b. 1,500 feet
  - c. 2,000 feet
  - d. 5,000 feet
76. What office is responsible for the filing, administration, and resolution of claims related to blasting?
- a. The claims office
  - b. The office of explosives and blasting
  - c. The bureau of Indian affairs
  - d. The office of public affairs

77. When may compressed gas tanks and cylinders be transported with the regulators attached?
- When the regulators are in a closed position and the hoses are relieved of pressure
  - When they are transported in substantially constructed compartments specifically designed for the mine maintenance vehicles carrying them and when the cylinders are secured against movement and placed at no greater than a forty-five (45°) degree angle
  - When the regulators are adequately covered to provide protection
  - All of the above
78. Where may required first aid supplies be located with respect to the working pit when a ten (10) unit first aid kit is provided in the working pit?
- Within 1,000 feet of the working pit
  - Within 2,000 feet of the working pit
  - Within 3,000 feet of the working pit
  - Within 4,000 feet of the working pit
79. How long may any person holding a surface mine foreman certification issued by any other state act in the capacity of surface mine foreman in this state?
- Until the next regular surface mine foreman examination is held by MHST, but not to exceed a maximum of ninety (90) days
  - They can not
  - For one (1) year
  - For five (5) years
80. What criteria must each applicant for surface assistant mine foreman certification satisfy at the time he is issued such certification?
- None
  - The same required of a mine foreman, except that the applicant need possess only two (2) years mining experience, which shall include eighteen (18) months on or at a working section of a surface mine
  - There is no such certification
  - The same criteria that an applicant for underground assistant mine foreman certification must satisfy
81. How often must a qualified person conduct examinations for accumulations of methane in surface structures, enclosures, or other surface facilities?
- Every twenty (20) minutes
  - Every two (2) hours
  - Every four (4) hours
  - At least once during each operating shift

82. When must permanent ladders be provided with backguards?
- When they are more than seven (7) feet in height
  - When they are more than eight (8) feet in height
  - When they are more than nine (9) feet in height
  - When they are more than ten (10) feet in height
83. How many feet from any active work area, occupied buildings, or public roads (unless adequately barricaded) must surface magazines for explosives and detonators be located?
- At least 50 feet
  - At least 100 feet
  - At least 150 feet
  - At least 200 feet
84. Before any augering operation is begun, what distance on both sides of each drilling site shall the face of all highwalls be inspected by the auger operator and the mine foreman?
- 100 feet
  - 125 feet
  - 150 feet
  - 175 feet
85. What must be provided in rooms in which circuit breakers or controls are installed?
- Fans
  - Air conditioners
  - Dehumidifiers
  - Two (2) separate and distinct travelable passageways designated as escapeways
86. When must the equipment operator (except independent contractors) give his written preshift report to the mine foreman or the mine foreman's assistant?
- Within 4 hours after the beginning of the start of the working shift
  - Before the start of the working shift
  - Anytime after the working shift starts
  - After the working shift is over
87. When are unguarded conveyor belt walkways required to be provided with emergency stop switches and pull cord along their entire length?
- When the walkway is less than 5 feet in width
  - Always
  - Never
  - Sometimes

88. How many exits are required on each floor of a tippie or cleaning plant?
- a. 2
  - b. 4
  - c. 6
  - d. 8
89. How many apprentice miners may the mine foreman or assistant mine foreman have under their direct supervision in an area where no coal is being produced?
- a. 11
  - b. 21
  - c. 13
  - d. 5
90. For what length of time is an apprentice miner's card valid?
- a. 1 year
  - b. 2 years
  - c. 3 years
  - d. 3 months
91. What work does the surface coal mine truck driver certification allow its holder to perform?
- a. Drive coal trucks
  - b. Reclamation work
  - c. Mining work
  - d. All of the above
92. How many cars may a car dropper drop at one time with one brake?
- a. As many as he can
  - b. As many as he wants
  - c. 3
  - d. There are no stipulations
93. What requirements apply to all electric motors, switches, and controls used in unusually dusty locations?
- a. They must be of dust-tight construction
  - b. They must be enclosed with reasonably dust-tight housings or enclosures
  - c. Either of the above
  - d. There are no special requirements
94. How shall all safety equipment on all machinery be maintained?
- a. In an unsafe working condition
  - b. In a safe working condition
  - c. In permissible condition
  - d. None of the above

95. What must be done when a potentially dangerous condition is found on a unit of electrical equipment?
- The equipment must be removed from service until repaired by a certified electrician
  - Run it till the next shift
  - Run it till it breaks down
  - None of the above
96. What office is responsible for regulating blasting on all surface mining operations?
- Office of explosives and blasting
  - Bureau of commerce
  - Bureau of public health
  - Bureau of Indian affairs
97. What must be established between equipment operators working on stockpiles and those persons who are operating conveyors, feeders, and hoppers at storage piles (where more than one person performs these duties), in order to keep such equipment operators advised of the possibility of bridged material over a cavity in the stockpile?
- Nothing
  - Telephone or equivalent two-way communications
  - A rip cord
  - Telepathic communication
98. When must the mine foreman or assistant mine foreman conduct a preshift examination of the active workings of the mine?
- Within three (3) hours prior to the beginning of a shift and before any miner on such shift enters the active workings of the mine
  - Four (4) hours prior to the oncoming shift
  - Anytime after the shift starts
  - Preshift examinations are not required at surface coal mines in West Virginia
99. When are surface mine employees required to wear approved safety helmets?
- When exposed to a danger of head injury from impact
  - When exposed to a danger of head injury from falling or flying objects
  - When exposed to electrical shock and burn hazards
  - All of the above
100. How often must all parts of the track haulage road under the ownership or control of the coal operator be inspected to assure safe operation and compliance with the law and regulations?
- Every shift
  - Weekly
  - At least every twenty-four (24) hours
  - Monthly

**SURFACE MINE FOREMAN RECIPROCITY STUDY GUIDE**  
**Answer Key**

1.	D	21.	B	41.	C	61.	A	81.	D
2.	A	22.	A	42.	A	62.	C	82.	D
3.	B	23.	A	43.	D	63.	A	83.	D
4.	C	24.	A	44.	C	64.	D	84.	A
5.	C	25.	A	45.	A	65.	A	85.	D
6.	D	26.	C	46.	B	66.	A	86.	A
7.	D	27.	A	47.	B	67.	D	87.	A
8.	B	28.	C	48.	C	68.	B	88.	A
9.	A	29.	D	49.	D	69.	C	89.	D
10.	D	30.	A	50.	B	70.	A	90.	A
11.	C	31.	C	51.	C	71.	D	91.	A
12.	D	32.	C	52.	C	72.	C	92.	C
13.	A	33.	B	53.	D	73.	B	93.	C
14.	C	34.	D	54.	D	74.	C	94.	B
15.	C	35.	A	55.	C	75.	A	95.	A
16.	A	36.	C	56.	D	76.	B	96.	A
17.	A	37.	C	57.	D	77.	D	97.	B
18.	C	38.	B	58.	A	78.	B	98.	A
19.	A	39.	B	59.	A	79.	A	99.	D
20.	C	40.	A	60.	B	80.	B	100.	C